

**The Atmosphere** ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

## Air Quality

*This section describes harmful substances in the air and explains how they can affect people and things. The section also describes what has been done to improve air quality.*

### Use Target Reading Skills

*As you read about air quality, complete the outline to show the relationship among the headings.*

#### Air Quality

##### I. Sources of Pollution

###### A. Natural Sources

B. \_\_\_\_\_

##### II. \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

##### III. \_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction

1. Harmful substances in the air, water, or soil are known as \_\_\_\_\_.

2. How can air pollution affect human health?

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### Sources of Pollution

3. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about the causes of air pollution.

- a. Some air pollution occurs naturally.
- b. Some air pollution is caused by human activities.
- c. Motor vehicles cause almost half of the air pollution from human activities.
- d. Farming is not a cause of air pollution.

4. What are some natural sources of particles in the atmosphere?

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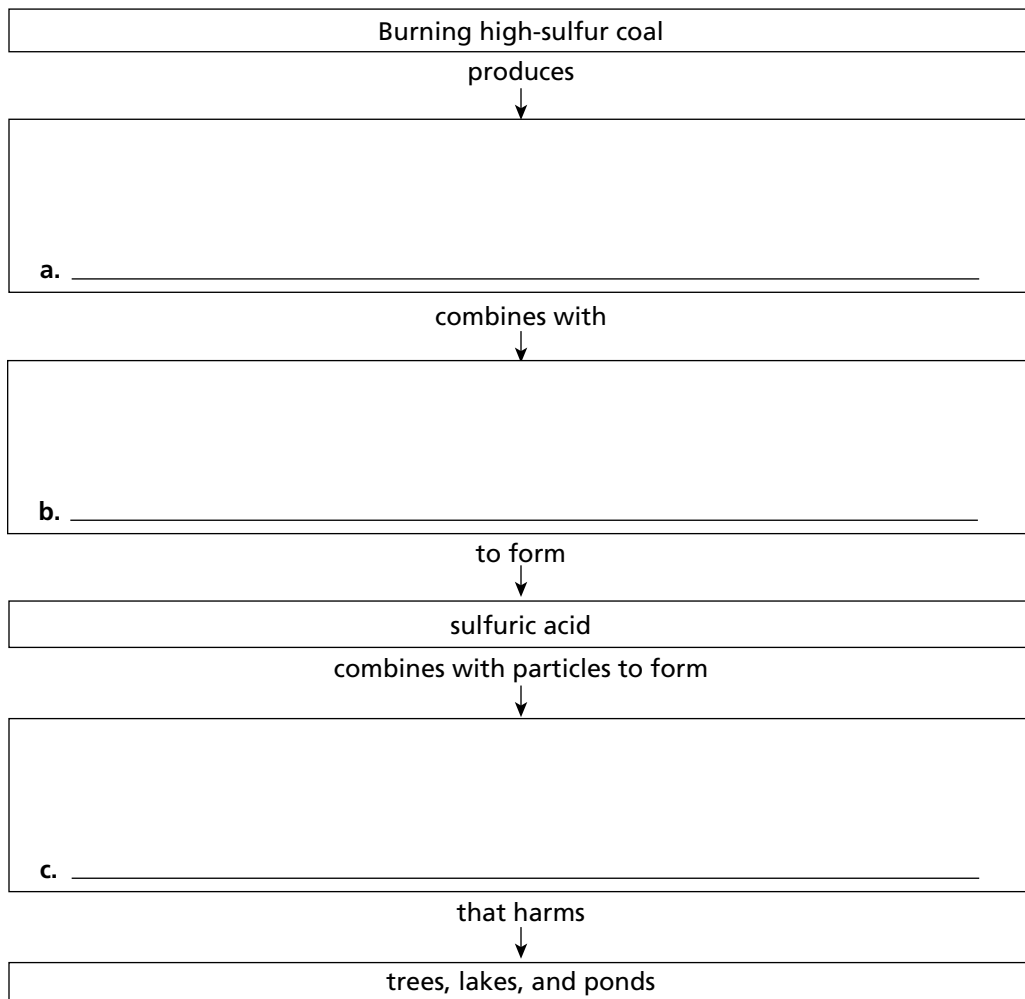


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**Smog and Acid Rain**

5. The brown haze that forms over sunny cities like Los Angeles is called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about photochemical smog.
  - a. It is caused by the action of sunlight on chemicals.
  - b. It forms when particles in smoke combine with water droplets in air.
  - c. It forms ozone, which harms living things.
  - d. It is a mixture of ozone and other air pollutants.
7. What effects does ozone have on people and things?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Is the following sentence true or false? One result of air pollution is acid rain. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Complete the flowchart to show causes, results, and effects related to acid rain.



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**Smog and Acid Rain** *(continued)*

- d. Identify the cause of sulfur oxide. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. How can sulfuric acid be both a result and a cause? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. What is the end effect of burning high-sulfur coal?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Is the following sentence true or false? Rain is not naturally acidic.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Rain that contains more acid than normal is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
12. How can acid rain affect trees such as pines and spruce?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. How can acid rain harm lakes and ponds?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Improving Air Quality**

14. Is the following sentence true or false? Air quality in this country has generally worsened over the past 30 years. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Is the following sentence true or false? The air in many American cities is still polluted. \_\_\_\_\_